



NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2008

Seashore Dropseed

Scientific Name: *Sporobolus virginicus* (L.) Kunth

Common Name: Seashore Dropseed

Morphological Characteristics

Habit- native, strongly rhizomatous perennial grass reaching 10-50 cm. tall; flowers May to October and occasionally to December; reproduces by seed and vegetative spreading

Leaves- blades usually rolled inward, distinctly two ranked, 3-10 cm long and 1.5-4 mm broad; sheaths mostly overlapping, glabrous except for a few long hairs on either side of the collar

Inflorescence- contracted panicles, spicate, densely flowered; Spikelets straw-colored, grayish, or purple tinged, glabrous, shining

Fruit- caryopsis



Habitat and Range: Frequent on sandy beaches and at the bases of sand dunes along the coast as well as inland salt marshes.

Conservation Use

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 322 Channel Bank Vegetation; 584 Channel Stabilization; 342 Critical Area Planting; 393 Filter Strip; 412 Grassed Waterway; 562 Recreation Area Improvement; 610 Salinity and Sodic Soil Management; and 580 Streambank and Shoreline Protection. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!

Centers Requesting Seed or Vegetative Cuttings

E. Kika de la Garza PMC



How to Collect Seed

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper sack. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center requesting the species.

E. Kika de la Garza Plant Materials Center
3409 N FM 1355
Kingsville, TX 78363

Helpful Tips

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Plants look very similar to bermuda grass, but will be growing along the beaches and have a very different inflorescence. Seed fill has been a problem with this species, so vegetative cuttings are welcomed. Please take cuttings from as many plants as possible to increase genetic diversity of the collection. Cuttings should include 6 to 8 inches of the rhizome. Wrap cuttings in moist sphagnum moss or paper towels, place in a plastic bag, and send as soon as possible,



Other Photos



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